

APRIL

1975

AT THE CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

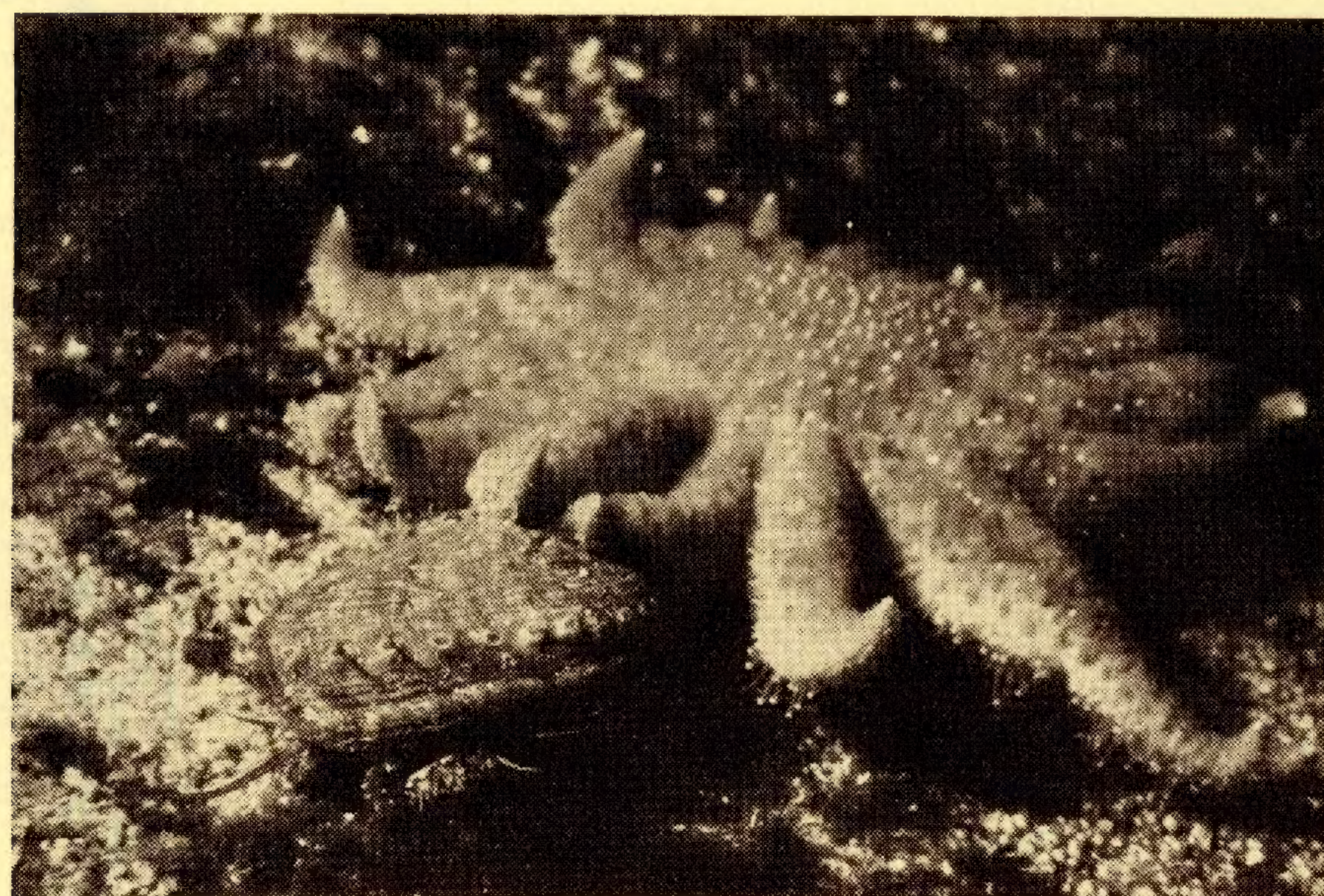
APRIL MEETINGS

Dates & Times: Matinee, 2:30 p.m., Wednesday April 9
Evenings, 8:00 p.m., Wednesday and Thursday, April 9-10

Place: May Treat Morrison Auditorium

Speaker: Don Wobber

Subject: "WOBBER'S WORLD BENEATH THE TIDES"



Below the chilly waters off Cannery Row, Monterey, California, lies an ancient battleground: sea stars war with their own kind as well as other species; abalone edging over rock surfaces, using odd defense mechanisms in baffling their predators; sea slugs suddenly disappear before your eyes into the tubes of the anemones they feed upon.

Mr. Wobber, a marine biologist, film-maker, writer, is fascinated by animal behavior. About his motion picture footage: "I liken it to squeezing down through a microscope and suddenly finding myself among organisms whose structure has remained relatively unchanged for over 400 million years. And yet, there I am surrounded by these primitive creatures, discovering things about them that have not been known to man before, each creature is beautifully moulded in body, motivated

mainly by survival in the most competitive of environments."

He is widely published as both author and photographer in popular and scientific journals. Currently, he is producing a book about the recovery of a 4½ ton jade rock from the sea off Big Sur (the fact is in the most recent Guinness Book of Records). He was one of four divers engaged in the task.

Three presentations as usual and your membership card admits you through the main entrance, Cowell Hall. At the matinee performance you may be asked to present it once again at the auditorium entrance.

MORRISON PLANETARIUM

"SKYLIGHT", in celebration of spring and part of the city-wide "Rainbow Show", continues in the Theatre of the Stars through June 8. Light and color fill the sky in the form of auroras, eclipses, sun dogs, halos and a host of other dazzling things.

Performances daily at two with evening performances Wednesday and Thursday night *only* at eight. Extra matinees at 3:30 on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. Adults, \$1.00. Those seventeen and under, 50c.

LASARIUM

This "cosmic light concert under the stars" is *really* light and color in the sky — a continuing smash hit in the planetarium on weekends. Please note that this is *not* a planetarium show *nor* are your membership tickets or passes usable for this attraction. So completely different an experience, it is difficult to describe — but seeing it at least once is a priority. "LASERIUM" is presented on Friday, Saturday and Sunday at 7:30, 9:00 and 10:30 with extra shows at 4:45 on Saturday and Sunday. Tickets are \$3.00 and available at Bay Area Seating Service outlets (Pacific Stereo stores, Discount Record stores, and Montgomery Ward). They will also be available at the planetarium box-office (if not sold out) at the time of a particular performance.

SPECIAL EXHIBITS

"THE GENIUS OF BENIAMINO BUFANO", a wide-ranging retrospective devoted to the works of this late San Francisco genius is causing quite a stir in art circles. Certainly the most definitive show ever devoted to this lovable eccentric, you'll find paintings, drawings, graphics, mosaics and sculpture (massive and miniature) fashioned from a wide variety of materials. Children love it. The sleek animal sculptures invite touching, sometimes even riding to some magic mountain in the mind. This exhibit continues throughout the year. It is centered in Lovell White Hall, spreads out into Astronomy Hall and even further into the Fountain of Whales courtyard. There is no extra charge for this exhibit.

"SKYLAB" stays in Hohfeld Gallery for the next several months. This intimate look at a daring adventure in space was made possible through the kind cooperation of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

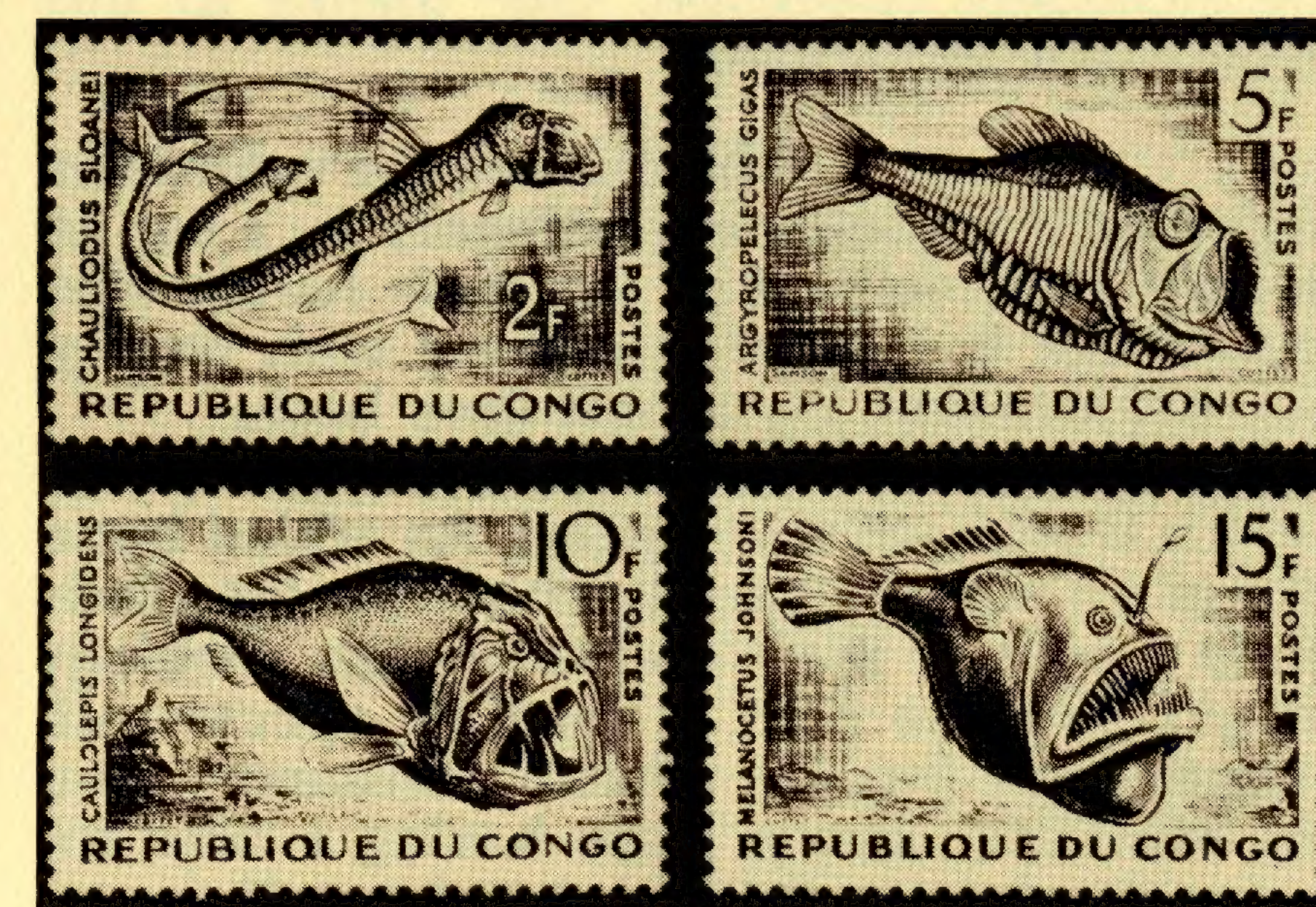
"A SHOW OF COLOR" is the CAS' contribution to the total "Rainbow Show" being celebrated around the Bay Area and will continue through the summer solstice. It can be enjoyed throughout the Academy in special cases, added information on certain exhibits (look for the sun colophon!), all pointing up the wonder of "Mother Nature's Magnificent Palette". (Please see NEWS AND NOTES about a cooperative admission policy with the M. H. deYoung Museum across the Music Concourse for this springtime celebration).

ADVANCE NOTICE OF MONTHLY ACADEMY MEETINGS

May 14-15, June 11-12, and July 16-17.

News and Notes

The Academy's Picture Collection has a new project under way — the creation of a world-wide postage stamp assemblage for exhibit and educational use. Though the accent at first is on natural history subjects as witnessed in stamps of many countries, the department will gladly accept others in order to make the collection as comprehensive and as complete as possible. This public collection will be unique in northern California.



An example of the application which can be made of such material may be found in Dr. William Eschmeyer's article "Fish On Stamps" in the September-October 1974 issue of PACIFIC DISCOVERY. A botanical stamp article is projected.

A gift of a beautiful set of stamp albums has added impetus to the project and all that is needed now is the stamps to fill them. Any and all are welcome — new and used — foreign or domestic — postal cards or envelopes. If the stamps are to be cut off, please leave generous margins around the perforations and let the philatelists-in-charge complete the next processes. It goes without saying that if anyone has a stamp collection that has become inactive for one reason or another, it would be most welcome, so get in touch with Johan Kooy, Chairman. He'll be glad to hear from you.

A new display

is worthy of your examination at the astronomy exhibit entrance to Steinhart Aquarium. Through the kind generosity of Joseph B. Wheelwright, M.D., an ardent collector of sea shells, samples of his "gems" can be examined by Academy visitors, some of them never before on public exhibit. A specially constructed case was created for this display. The instructive label is always lighted except when a button is pressed — then a rare shell comes into view. Ernest Rook, Curator of Exhibits, conceived the case, it was designed and built by James Piazza, with electronic magic by Bradley Buchanan — all made possible by the financial support of Dr. Wheelwright who continues to contribute additional "gems" to

the Academy collection. Our thanks to this beneficent gentleman.

This is a call for volunteers for several Academy departments — a call to people with extra time on their hands who would like to become involved with one of our departments on a part-time basis.

The greatest current need is for typists. Accuracy is stressed over speed. An added boon would be a particular penchant for the discipline involved: Birds and Mammals, Geology (could also use help in labeling specimens), Herpetology (mainly clerical assistance), and the Mailliard Library, again having a need for a typist who would commit himself for at least a year, part-time, and library experience itself would be invaluable.

Morrison Planetarium is in urgent need of someone to take telephone reservations for the ongoing student shows — Mondays through Thursdays from nine until five, and the time can be arranged to suit individual schedules — one hour or eight — any commitment would be welcome.

If some part of this plea appeals to you (and we hope it does), the Development Office, Extension 63, will be more than happy to hear from you.

AND NOW ABOUT "THE RAINBOW SHOW"!

The M. H. deYoung Museum Society and the Membership Committee of the Academy have joined forces in arranging so that all members involved will be allowed in free to each other's spring equinox celebration. An Academy membership card **only** (no guest cards) will admit two persons free into the special exhibit at deYoung regardless of type of membership. Conversely, deYoung Society members will be admitted free to the CAS' "A SHOW OF COLOR" during the same period (March 21 through June 21).

This reciprocal agreement will bring great splashes of color into your life, so be sure and take advantage of this rainbow experience.

TRAVEL NOTES

The Academy is sponsoring an **East Africa Symposium** with Nature Expeditions International on Saturday, May 17 from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in Morrison Auditorium. It has been designed around the itinerary of the Academy-

sponsored trip to that fascinating area of the world and is open to all interested parties at a nominal cost of \$10 per person. Questions and registrations should be directed to the Education Office of the Academy.

Some spaces remain on the members' trip to **Southwest Indian Country**, May 24-June 1. Please see your March NEWSLETTER for details or telephone Gulliver's Travel at 346-4400.

A special brochure describing the Academy trip to South Africa and the Seychelles has been mailed to all members. If you did not receive one, or need further details, please phone Bryan International Travel at 986-0967.

Three adult classes scheduled to begin this month have openings for more students: "Ecology of San Francisco Bay" is a field-oriented course meeting for six consecutive Saturdays beginning April 12; "Geologic Hazards: Earthquakes and Volcanoes" is a lecture series beginning April 10; and "Scientific Illustration" is a popular repeat beginning April 16. Call the Education Office for further details: 221-4214.

A SPECIAL EVENT!

CAS-MARINE WORLD-AFRICA U.S.A. PICNIC! Brochures have been mailed to all members for a fine family outing scheduled for April 13. All activities included in one price (except lunch). If you haven't received yours, tele-221-5100, Extension 63.

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